A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 2. 1710.

WE have had this Week a Prelude to the new *High-Church* Affair, and the Play has been made upon the Mob—— Dr. *Sacheverell* in his passing and re-passing has, they say, been huzza'd by the Canaile, the Rabble; and this having been artfully obtain'd, is now to be artfully improv'd.

1. There is no Doubt, but when the *House of Commons* comes to hear, how the Mob have cry'd Hosannah to this elevated Saint, they will not dare to proceed any farther against him; for Mobbs are dreadful Things, especially to Parliaments; and the *House of Commons* being mighty easily bully'd into or out of any thing; no Doubt, but this Parading will do the *Doctor* a great Service, and therefore he goes out in State every Morning, and makes his publick Entry again every Evening, attended with the Black-Guard of the Mob, as above.

I confess, this is a rank Charge upon the *House of Commons*, and upon Parliaments; but as every Body is at Liberty to prove what they say, I hope, I may be allow'd the like; and I need refer you no farther than to the Revolution and the Union——— The Mob, you know, shouted and huzza'd King *James* back again, when he return'd to *Whitehall*; and you know, how it cow'd the People of *England*, so much, that King *James* was forc'd to run

run away again, or else it is queſtion'd by ſome, whether you had ever brought the *Houſe* to vote the Abdication—— Again, the Mob in *Scotland*, how did they fright the Parliament, and the D—— of *Q*———*ry* from going on with that Treaty, inſomuch that at laſt, if they had not ſuppreſs'd the Rabble, it would be a great Queſtion, whether ever it had been done.

2. This Huzzaing has made the *Doctor* ſo popular already, that the Ladies begin to talk of falling in Love with him——— And his Brethren of the *High-Flying* Party apparently envy him the Glory of his Suffering. This is evident in two remarkable Inſtances; *Viz.* Mr. *Milburn* of St. *Ethelburgh*, and Dr. *Higgins* at ..... who have both preach'd, and talk'd, and done all they can, if poſſible, to provoke the Parliament to take Notice of them too, *and can't bring themſelves into Trouble for their Lives*—— The *Houſe* of *Commons* are ſo ill-naturedly civil, ſo tame, ſo paſſive, ſo phlegmatick, that tho' they have ſaid all the virulent, ſeditious Things, that their great Wit and greater Rage can invent, they cannot provoke the *Houſe* to think them conſiderable enough to be honour'd with taking into Cuſtody, or an Order for Proſecution.

This is hard indeed; never was the Forwardneſs of the Primitive Martyrs thus baulk'd; when they in Defiance of their Perſecutors offer'd themſelves to Martyrdom, *they certainly had it*; none courted the Crown but they obtain'd it, and when they tendred their Limbs to the Tormenters, they generally took them at their Words——— But here the two *Wou'd-be-Champions* puſh all they can, they defie the Laws, affront the Government, inſult the Parliament, and all won't do—— They are ſtill under the Mortification of ſeeing the Parliament contemn them, and think they are too little for publick Notice—— That Nothing can be a greater Mortification to a proud Man, than to ſee himſelf contemn'd, was a Maxim antient as *Plutarch*, and will hold true to the End of the World.

To neglect a Man, to take no Notice of his Affronts, to put a cold Slight upon his warmeſt Attempts, to injure you—This is ſo provoking, it is enough to make a patient Man angry, an angry Man furious, and a proud Man mad——— Alas, the poor *High-Flyers* that rail, ſwear, and abuſe the Government, and cannot get any Notice taken of them at all—— This looks, as if the *Houſe* thought them a Kind of little inſignificant Fellows, who are not worth medling with; but as when an Aſs kicks a Man, he will not, if he be wiſe, kick him again, but go and leave him; ſo the *Commons*, deſpiſing theſe little Kind of Fellows, let's them rail on, till this Capital Offender is puniſh'd; and then they will take ſuch effectual a Courſe by Law to ſuppreſs theſe mad Men, that they, as fond as they are of Martyrdom, will not dare to offend.

Well, Gentlemen, the *Houſe* are now upon the *Doctor*; and what think you the *High-Flyers* ſay now? — Why truly they ſay, that the whole Parliament cannot find out a Method to puniſh him——And therefore the Queſtion now in every Man's Mouth is, What will they do with him?——If the *Lords* bring him in Guilty, what then? Why, *ſay they*, the whole *Houſe* cannot tell what Puniſhment to inflict upon him——. It is father'd upon a *Scots* Member, *tho' I believe the Story is made for him too*, That when one aſk'd him what they would do with him, he ſhould anſwer, *I do no ken*, but I believe, we muſt UNFROCK HIM.

Really, Gentlemen, I could give you a great Variety of Puniſhments, which Men, as their Paſſions and Tempers lead them, have provided for this Gentleman; but I omit them, becauſe I will not ſeem to prompt his Fate; but I am ſtill where I was, I care not how eaſie they let fall the Man, ſo they will but ſentence the Crime; this is what the great Noiſe made of this Affair calls for——— It is not for Dr. *Sacheverell* that a long Trial is prepar'd, and the QUEEN put to 500 *l.* Charge for building a Court of Juſtice: — It is not to try a ſingle Prieſt, that all the Ceremony of trying the greateſt *Peer* in the Nation is

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found neceſſary. No, no, Gentlemen, it is the *Principle* that is to be try'd; NON-RESISTANCE is to be weigh'd in the Ballance; if it is found too light, it muſt be caſt out among the Counterfeits that are trodden under Foot—it muſt be blaſted by the whole Nation, damn'd by the Breath of a Parliamentary Suffrage, and muſt for ever periſh and rot.

But if it be found Standard, if it will abide the Teſt, if it be a Doctrine founded on Truth and the Word of GOD, and that it is our Duty to obey it, then let the Parliament own and declare it—— And ſuch is the Neceſſity of Things, as they are now puſh'd, even by the *High* Party, that one or other muſt be done.

If *Non-Reſiſtance* be a notorious Cheat, a State-Error, a Tool of Tyranny, and a Fraud hatch'd by the Devil, to impoſe upon and delude Mankind,

Then the *Doctor* muſt be caſt and condemn'd; whether he muſt be *unfrock't* or no, that muſt be left to the *Lords* Determination.

If *Non-Reſiſtance* be Orthodox, and a Scriptural unalterable Obligation upon us all, then I think, all theſe horrid Poſitions will naturally follow, and prove true.

1. *That this is no Parliament of* Britain.
2. *The* QUEEN *is an Uſurper.*
3. *The Union is an unjuſt Confederacy.*
4. *King* William *was an unjuſt Invader:*
5. *The Succeſſion is Robbery.*
6. *And the Revolution is a Rebellion.*

I make no Apology for theſe Words, my Meaning is plain and honeſt; and I hope, every honeſt Man will underſtand me.

MISCELLANEA.

WHen firſt this Paper appear'd in the World, I erected a Court of Juſtice, for the cenſuring and expoſing Vice, and for a due Diſcouragement of the ſcandalous Manners of the Age——And Abundance of whoring Magiſtrates, drunken Juſtices, illiterate Scholars, ignorant Wits, ſober Sots, and ſanctify'd Sinners, ſtand recorded in the vaſt Journals of our *Scandal Club*; but tir'd with the Maſs of Filth, the Stench of which was hardly to be endur'd; I laid aſide the *Herculean Labour* for a while, and am glad to ſee the Society honour'd by the Succeſſion *(in thoſe juſt Endeavours)* of the Venerable *Iſaac Bickerſtaff*, Eſq; who vouchſafing to rake in your beloved Lay-ſtall, may perhaps, *contrary to Nature*, bring you to ſmell your own Stink, and have a juſt Notion of your Follies.

But ſince I have with long Experience found, that this is a Work of Time, and cannot be brought to Perfection without ſome Difficulty, and perhaps not till ſome Ages of Crime are paſs'd over us——And in the mean time, that in this Scarcity of Funds, and general Weight of publick Debts, SIN, *among the reſt of the Nation's Manufactures*, may not go untax'd, but as it brought the Judgment of the War upon us, may help to bear the Expence of it; I have therefore reſolv'd, *perhaps I may hereafter get an Act of Parliament to eſtabliſh the Fund, and get a borrowing Clauſe upon it,* to erect a *Faculty-Office* or a *Licenſe-Book* for the modern Crimes of the Town, upon a Price to be paid during the Time of their Uſage among us, ſo long as, and no longer, than till the laudable Endeavour and juſt Authority of Eſq; *Bickerſtaff aforeſaid* has effectually ſuppreſs'd them.

And tho' it is true, in the Infancy of this Deſign you cannot expect great Progreſs to be made; yet I am to give Notice, That no ſooner was our Office open'd, but a certain City-Major made immediate Application for a Licenſe to co-habit with his Neighbour's Wife——We made ſome few Words about the Price, becauſe we were

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